

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 25 January 2021 Held online via MS Teams at 6.00pm

Chaired by: Kim Howell
Minutes taken by: AscribeR

1	<p>Welcome, apologies and introductions Declaration of interest</p> <p>The Chair welcomed and thanked those present for attending.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was being conducted via MS Teams in line with current Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions and outlined the proceedings for the meeting. Any questions should be put in the Teams Chat box and the answers to any not answered with would be included in the minutes.</p>	ACTION
2	<p>Borough Crime Report and Police Issues</p> <p>Chief Inspector Simon Brooker (Neighbourhoods, Central West BCU) introduced the Crime report. Crime was down for most of last 12 months, in the main due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He drew attention to data from Abingdon Ward and explained that this was a glitch in the system which defaults entries to Abingdon when the ward is unknown. This will be corrected in future. The pandemic situation for police is largely business as usual with the abstraction rate between 10% and 25%, the number of emergency calls has decreased by approximately 40% but the volume of anti social behaviour has increased up by 300% mainly due to Covid breeches. The police were working with the Council and adopting the four E approach: engage, explain, encourage and then enforcement mainly on blatant breeches.</p> <p>Neighbourhood policing challenges have included daily identification with local authorities over possible hotspots, on and off sale of alcohol and street and bar gatherings plus calls for assistance from shop owners for customers not wearing masks.</p> <p>SB outlined the statistics for notifiable offences including watch robbery and knife crime (intimated and actual). Whenever restrictions are loosened crime statistics generally increase and there was a concern that this will continue to be the case once the lockdown eases. Domestic Crime in the home had increased but not as much as had been anticipated. He also set out the background to the statistics on harassment, residential burglary and non-residential burglary on which work had been done to mitigate risks. Stop and</p>	

	<p>search numbers peaked at times when police were involved in national protests.</p> <p>Inspector Meredydd Jones has moved on and his full time replacement Inspector Tom Sincock has started today. During 2020, 50 new police officers had joined the BCU (Basic Command Unit, covering the three boroughs) every five weeks in accordance with Central Government national pledge. There were two PCSO vacancies currently.</p> <p>During questions the following were raised and responded to as indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent SB would be leading the Ward Panel implementation plan which has been issued to BCUs, together with Mike Walsh. Neighbourhood scoping for the three boroughs was currently taking place and the Plan would be linked to other areas of community engagement and scrutiny with the aim of developing good quality, representative ward panels. • In response to complaints about unlawful activity including parties in the Earls Court area, particularly over the New Year’s Eve, a group of problem solvers has been convened to consider the perceptions with data. Data was not yet available to confirm responsibility as so far it only records the volume of calls and the hotspots. • Stuart Priestley confirmed that a number of asylum seeker families had been placed in the hotel accommodation in the Earls Court and Queens Gate areas by the Home Office. No links found to date between Asylum seekers and anti-social behaviour. • SB reminded of the need for incidents to be formally reported so that the Police are aware of what is happening on the ground. Additional police assets have been increased in areas of concern, such as North Kensington, to counter drugs and gangs where these have been identified. • Reports of regular parties at an address were requested to be sent to SB via email. • Regarding a report of graffiti, SP recommend a referral to the Council’s Graffiti line for investigation and removal. The reporting details are: telephone number: 020 7361 3001; email: streetline@rbkc.gov.uk • SB agreed to look into complaints of drivers going the wrong way around one way streets in the Earls Court area and becoming abusive when challenged. 	
<p>3</p>	<p>RBKC Community Safety Plan</p> <p>Stuart Priestley (Chief Community Safety Officer, RBKC) introduced Community Safety Partnership Plan, devised by the Safer K&C Partnership to make recommendations following consultation. The current plan was due to expire this year. Stacey Smith (Community Safety Team) asked the SNB to consider the following questions responses to which would be fed back as part of wider consultation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What are the most important crime and disorder issues for the Safer K&C Partnership to tackle and why? 	

2) What should the partnership do to tackle these issues? And how can communities play their part?

During questions the following was noted:

- On consultation, residents were being informed of this review in a variety of ways such as by the Council's Communications Team, social media, leaflets in residents' food parcels, to residents associations throughout the borough.
- Stakeholders were supporting the advertising through stakeholder and voluntary organisations.
- Focus groups were starting next week, but more can be arranged if necessary.
- A link on how to join focus groups would be put in the Teams Chat and in the meeting presentations.
- It is not clear whether there is a correlation between community participation and the areas of highest crime or whether it was that those most affected by crime are least likely to participate. SP agreed this was an important consideration. Efforts were being made to ensure participation was as broad and deep as possible, including the digitally excluded. Further ideas on this or any other views were welcomed.
- SP agreed that sanction detection improvement should be considered in the Plan. SB agreed that this was an important issue and was pleased to report the number of crimes solved had increased over the past year due possibly to the Covid effect and also changed working processes.
- Crimes against people with disabilities was on the increase and would be part of the discussion. At the Safer K&C Partnership Board earlier in the day it was recognised as a hidden crime as victims are reluctant to report possibly for fear of reprisals. The Borough Commander advised at the Board meeting that a Hate Crime unit had been established and crimes against people with disabilities would be specifically categorised and an important part of their work.
- Financial crime, fraud and forgery are not included in local crime statistics. The Scams Workshop helps to give advice on protection. The Community Safety Team works closely with the Trading Standards Service and the Police to provide a Safe Assured Roadshow which visits community groups and vulnerable residents to raise awareness of latest scams and protection measures.
- SS confirmed that there was some evidence of an increase in the number of vulnerable children (at home due to school closures and less able to access the usual support services) being groomed for crime and this was being monitored closely. There was no evidence of an increase in serious violence or violent assault on young people and monitoring was taking place on the impact of school and youth club closures.
- SP would put the contact details for the Forum of Faiths focus group in the Teams Chat.
- The police were aware that drugs were often a driver of crime and feature as part of any offending analysis.

	The Chair thanked SP and SS for their contributions	
4	<p>SNB Chair Report – Kim Howell</p> <p>The Chair reported on progress on projects supported by MOPAC. All six projects had been approved however the Pandemic had impacted on delivery: one completed last summer and three had started but had been delayed. The sixth, not yet started would hopefully complete during 2021.</p> <p>The Police were promoting online reporting to augment telephoning 101 for non-emergencies. KH referred to his report circulated in November 2020 which gave guidance on online reporting for non-emergencies.</p> <p>The MetCC's performance has been good on both 999 and 101 calls and monitoring of domestic abuse calls continues.</p> <p>SB confirmed that the Kenway Road office has now been closed and officers were working from the Kensington Police Station. A new long term base for North based officers was being sought since the Royalty Studios front counter and police station was likely to be closed. There is no plan to close the Notting Hill station for at least 18 months.</p> <p>The Vice Chair would pass on for circulation, a flyer from Kids on the Green relating to a filming project opportunity.</p> <p>The Crime Summit, usually held in March, would now take place later in the year.</p>	
5	<p>Any other business</p> <p>None</p>	
	Meeting ended at 7.30pm	